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See attached note

27 July 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Training and Education

FROM:

[redacted]
Soviet Realities Institute
Intelligence Training Division

SUBJECT: Course Report--The Soviet Economy Block,
1 April - 17 June 1987

1. The second running of "The Soviet Economy--Processes, Prospects, Problems" was held on Wednesday afternoons from 1 April to 17 June 1987 at Headquarters. The course was designed by [redacted] former NIO for Economic Affairs. The first offering of the course in 1986 was highly praised by the participants so that modest changes only were introduced in this second version. [redacted] arranged for the appearance of the eleven guest speakers.

2. Twenty-three students were enrolled in the course: five each from SOVA and FBIS, three [redacted] two each from EURA, SE, and LDA, and one each from NESA, OGI, OIR, and OSO. Grades of the participants ranged from GS-07 to GS-15. The grade breakdown was as follows:

GS	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	1	2	1	3	5	6	2	2	1

3. The presentations of the eleven speakers, based on the comments of the students made in their course evaluations, were excellent to outstanding. Nine of the eleven speakers had taken part in the first running of the course in 1986, and were therefore familiar with the course objectives and the backgrounds, knowledge, and interests of the participants. [redacted] furthermore, provided careful guidance to the speakers.

Two new speakers joined the program, Professor Joseph Berliner of Brandeis University, who spoke on "The Role of Innovation in Soviet Industry," and Professor Paul Gregory of Houston University, who covered "Assessing Economic Growth and Performance." Professor Gregory is the co-author of the textbook which was used as the basic reading for the course.

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These eleven speakers, in my opinion, represented a "Who's Who" of scholars on the Soviet economy, and their presentations provided an extraordinary collection of analyses on the current condition of the Soviet economy, its achievements and problems, the economic (and political) issues confronting the Gorbachev regime, the proposed new policies put forward by the regime, and the prospects for attaining the goals over the next 15 years.

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A sampling of comments taken from the critiques (fourteen were submitted) include the following remarks: "Most of the speakers were excellent," "All speakers were knowledgeable (and) well prepared," "I found all the topics interesting, as well as useful," and "The course was well planned. I looked forward to each session."

4. Most students felt the design of the course was well-conceived and overall achieved a sound balance in examining the complicated issues which the Soviet regime now faces.

The textbook used, SOVIET ECONOMIC STRUCTURE AND PERFORMANCE, 3rd edition, by Paul R. Gregory and Robert C. Stuart, was mentioned by several students as serving as a solid basis for the course reading. The additional readings, in their view, were also carefully and well chosen.

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5. Among the suggestions for changes to be considered for future runnings of the course were more discussion of the current reforms and of the economic decrees which have been promulgated in the last two years, and more coverage on the defense-economic sector. Also proposed were more treatment of foreign economic relations and of Soviet relations with CEMA.

Some students (5) stated they would have preferred that the course be scheduled for mornings instead of afternoons, but by far the greater majority felt the present arrangements were just right.

6. The message I received from reading the course critiques was a high level of satisfaction with the course and a realization by the class that the speakers collectively represented an extremely high level of quality and expertise. The class members were convinced that the course will prove useful to them in their work.

One further comment should be made. The Defense and Economics Issues Group of SOVA provided continuing support for the full twelve weeks of the course and sent one of its analysts to each session. Their contributions added immeasurably to the effectiveness of the course, and special thanks is due to Doug [redacted] who arranged for this cooperation.

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Attachments:

- A. Course Schedule
- B. Course Evaluations

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Course Report--The Soviet Block

FROM:

Director of Training and Education
1026 CofC

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

18 August 1987

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1. Doug MacEachin
D/SOVA
4E58 HQS

1. - 3.

FYI

2.

Mu thanks please to Doug
and his people for
their interest and help.

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DD/SOVA
4E58 HQS

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Stan